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Steps taken to implement the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education

National report of Mexico

Introduction

Mexico is convinced that disarmament and non-proliferation education makes a valuable contribution to world peace. That is why the topic has been promoted at many forums on disarmament and non-proliferation.

In this context, Mexico recalls General Assembly resolution 61/73 entitled "United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education"[1] adopted without a vote on 6 December 2006, especially paragraph 1, which encourages Member States and other organizations to continue applying the recommendations made in the study and reporting to the Secretary-General on steps taken to implement them. Furthermore, stressing Mexico's deep commitment to achieving progress in the establishment of a culture of peace and non-violence that uses disarmament and non-proliferation education as effective means of achieving that goal, urges States parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to submit information on the measures and actions taken towards that end.

Mexico adopted the following measures in this area:

> **Recommendation number 1 of the study**: Member States are encouraged to accord importance to disarmament and non-proliferation education and training in their programmes and policies, consistent with their national legislation and practices, taking into account present and future trends.

[1] Also in accordance with recommendation 31 of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

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Promotion of the subject in forums and international and regional organizations

During the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, 2-27 May 2005), Mexico, together with Egypt, Hungary, Japan, New Zealand, Peru, Poland and Sweden, submitted working paper NPT/CONF.2005/WP.30 of 11 May 2005 on disarmament and non-proliferation education. It was noted in that document that "disarmament and non-proliferation education can ensure the continuation of institutional knowledge, and assist those working on NPT issues to understand the Treaty and its regime as a whole. Furthermore, it will assist NPT States parties in increasing awareness of new and all dangers posed by nuclear weapons and inform the public of actions being carried out by Governments, diplomats and international institutions to this end". The document also contained a series of recommendations.

In the Tlatelolco Declaration adopted by the first Conference of States Parties and Signatories to Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, held in Tlatelolco, Mexico City, from 26 to 28 April 2005, Mexico supported the introduction of paragraph 30 expressing the "conviction that disarmament and non-proliferation education constitutes an important measure that can contribute to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons threats", encouraging all States to promote programmes instilling the values of peace, disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation in their respective educational and academic spheres.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and donor countries are also called upon to help in the promotion and implementation of such programmes. That Conference provided a valuable framework for fostering discussions on the subject by civil society, which participated actively in the discussions. The outcomes of the Conference were published as an official document of the 2005 NPT Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2005/WP.46, of 18 May 2005).

Mexico has promoted resolutions on incorporating the issue in the agenda of various international and regional forums such as the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), and has benefited from the United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament, which has trained many Mexican diplomats who have played a role in shaping its foreign policy in this area. In 2006, a Mexican woman received a fellowship under that Programme.

Operation Secure Mexico programme

Mexico has a programme called operation Secure Mexico to combat arms proliferation; it is implemented by the Ministry of Naval Affairs (SEMAR) and agencies involved in the national security agenda. Under the agenda are implemented administrative and legal measures based on articles 1, 3 and 12 of the National Security Act, the purpose of which is to lay the foundation for the integration and coordinated action of the institutions and authorities responsible for safeguarding national security, in their respective areas of competence, as well as chapter 7, on order and respect, of the 2001 National Development Plan.

The Ministry of Naval Affairs has carried out the following activities as a contribution to Mexico's efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation education: (a) preparation of final documents that the Mexican delegation submitted to the United Nations and participation in various working groups to negotiate an

international instrument to enable States to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, the proliferation of arms; (b) SEMAR participates in several multilateral initiatives for achieving progress on conventional arms limitation and control, which are consistent with the confidence-building measures set out in the declarations of Santiago and San Salvador; (c) implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects; (d) implementation of the Secure Mexico programme under which administrative and legal measures based on articles 1, 3 and 12 of the National Security Act are implemented.

Mexico furthermore assigns through the relevant authority a crucial role to conventional arms control in maintaining regional and international peace and security. Accordingly, since 1992, Mexico has duly filled in and submitted every year the forms for the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, which contain data on arms imports, exports and expenditure; this contributes to strengthening international confidence-building measures.

Diploma course on disarmament and international security for officials of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Bearing in mind the importance of training officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in that area, the Matías Romero Institute of the Ministry offered a diploma course on disarmament and international security to Ministry officials from 7 February to 25 May 2006. The topics covered included: organization, goals and introduction; temporal definition 1899-2005; the nuclear issue; and questions relating to international security.

The goal of the diploma course was to provide an overview of the problem of disarmament and multilateral efforts being made to define and implement a system of collective security; review the concepts of security, nation-State, national and collective security; give participants a clear understanding of the objectives of multilateral treaties on disarmament; familiarize them with the study of historical and current cases; make them conversant with the variety of disarmament forums and mechanisms (unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral); and analyse the sources of investigation for the various aspects of the issue.

The leadership of the United Nations system is interested in taking steps to promote that diploma course at the international level. A detailed study will soon be carried out on ways and means of doing so.

Online course on disarmament and international security

In addition, the Matías Romero Institute is taking full advantage of the Ministry's electronic media and is offering an online course on disarmament and international security which began on 2 October 2006 and ends on 21 May 2007. The course is designed to shed light on the perennial problem of disarmament and international security and raise awareness of the urgent need to address it. The specific objectives of the course include: (1) identifying historical phases in disarmament and international security; (2) assessing the different interpretations of disarmament; (3) evaluating multilateral efforts to define and implement a system of collective security; and (4) synthesizing the problem of international security and disarmament in historical and thematic terms.

Seminar on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the signing of the Tlatelolco Treaty

On the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the adoption and opening for signature of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty), the Matías Romero Institute organized an academic seminar on 14 and 15 February 2007 in the form of round tables to consider the following topics: (1) the Tlatelolco Treaty, its impact in Latin America and the Caribbean and the world; (2) effective international agreements to give non-nuclear-weapon States security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and (3) challenges to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

Lecture on chemical weapons

Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, delivered a lecture on the Chemical Weapons Convention on 23 May 2006 at the Matías Romero Institute.

Radio programmes entitled "Mexico's international relations" on disarmament and non-proliferation

Under a series of radio programmes entitled "Mexico's international relations", the Matías Romero Institute has promoted the topic of nuclear disarmament through the following broadcasts:

(a) "Nuclear safety 20 years after Chernobyl", an interview of Juan Eibenshchutz, Director General of the National Nuclear Safety and Safeguards Commission, on 2 May 2006;

(b) "An overview of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its implementation", interview of Rogelio Pfirter, Director General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, on 30 May 2006;

(c) "The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty", interview of Gerardo Suárez, former Director, International Monitoring System Division of the Provisional Technical Secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the CTBT Organization, 17 October 2006;

(d) "OPANAL and the fortieth anniversary of the Tlatelolco Treaty", interview of Edmundo Vargas Carreño, Secretary-General of OPANAL, 13 February 2007;

(e) "Commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Tlatelolco Treaty", interview of Héctor Gros Espieli, former Secretary-General of OPANAL and Ambassador of Uruguay to France; Pedro Núñez Mosqueda, Cuban Ambassador to Brazil; and Ana María Cetto, Deputy Director General of IAEA, on 20 February 2007.

Issue No. 75 of the *Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior* on multilateral disarmament negotiations

Issue No. 75 of the quarterly, *Revista Mexicana de Política Exterior*, published by the Matías Romero Institute, was entirely devoted to multilateral disarmament negotiations. The articles of the review were: (1) "Seis décadas de negociaciones

multilaterales de desarme", Miguel Marín Bosch; (2) "La aplicación de la Convención sobre Armas Químicas", Pablo Macedo Riba; (3) "El Tratado de Prohibición Completa de los Ensayos Nucleares", Perla Carvalho; (4) "Las negociaciones sobre las armas pequeñas: una visión histórica", María Angélica Arce; (5) "Las negociaciones sobre armas pequeñas y ligeras: una visión multidimensional", Luis Alfonso de Alba Góngora; and (6) "Las minas antipersonal", Socorro Rovirosa.

> **Recommendation number 13 of the study**: Member States are encouraged to give special emphasis to training customs, licensing and law enforcement officers for the purpose of fulfilling international obligations of Member States in the disarmament and non-proliferation fields.

The Government of Mexico has focused special attention on training customs officers in the General Customs Administration, which is under the Tax Administration Service of the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit.

Pursuant to its commitment to protect human life, property and the environment and to ensure the security of the international trade supply chain, the General Customs Administration is taking on the challenge of cooperating in the efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery and related materials. As a demonstration of its commitment, Mexico is cooperating under article 3 of Mexico's Customs Act with international organizations, including the United Nations Security Council, with a view to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 1673 (2006), as well as with the World Customs Organization, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, IAEA and specialized agencies such as the Inter-American Committee on Terrorism (CICTE).

In that regard, the General Customs Administration has organized various courses, seminars and activities to promote education, culture and training in disarmament and non-proliferation. They were:

1. Seminar on hazardous materials and response to chemical emergencies, held at Matamoros, Tamaulipas, from 29 November to 1 December 2005 in coordination with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Office for Environmental Protection.

2. Binational simulation of a major chemical emergency, conducted at Matamoros, Tamaulipas and Brownsville, Texas. As part of the activities undertaken during the seminar, on 1 December 2005, a simulation exercise was carried out in the Matamoros customs facilities of a collision between a tractor-trailer that was carrying 25 tonnes of oleum (a toxic chemical) and a dry box container trailer carrying hazardous residues in 200-litre containers. As a result of the impact, there was a simulation of an oleum leak in the tractor-trailer through the discharge valve located in the steam dome, while a spill of hazardous residues was simulated in the tractor-trailer. This triggered the implementation by customs personnel, in the form of the entity designed to deal with emergency situations (Matamoros Customs Incident Management Unit) of the immediate response plan in customs operation.

3. Course on safety in the trade in radioactive materials, chemical substances and biological agents, Mexico, from 16 to 27 January 2006. The event was planned and coordinated by the General Customs Administration as part of its ongoing training plan for frontline officials in customs units throughout the country on topics of security and facilitation of the international trade supply chain. The main thrust of the course, which was conducted by lecturers from IAEA, OPCW, the Departments of State, Energy and Homeland Security of the United States of America, among others, was non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The training course was attended by 132 officials of the General Customs Administration and 25 special guests from various Federal Government departments and agencies, including the ministries of Naval Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Communications and Transport and the Interior; the National Nuclear Safety and Safeguards Commission, the National Nuclear Research Institute of the Ministry of Health, the Federal Office for Environmental Protection and the Federal Commission for Protection against Public Health Risks. Representatives of the United States Departments of State, Energy, Defence and Homeland Security also participated in the course.

4. Course on response techniques for dealing with emergency situations, Reynosa, Tamaulipas, 27 March to 1 April 2006. The goal was to train 60 officials from various customs offices of the country on matters relating to the import of toxic chemicals and explosives and dual-use products. The course was taught by instructors from the United States Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency. The commodity identification training tool was introduced, which allows customs officials to identify though visual inspection materials on the Nuclear Suppliers Group dual-use control list. The Environmental Protection Agency provided training focused on responses to hazardous material incidents using incident management units; this enabled participants to familiarize themselves with the procedures developed in that area.

5. Binational simulation of a major chemical emergency "Nuevo Amanecer", Reynosa-Pharr, 1 April 2006. As an operational part of the training, a practical exercise was conducted at the premises of the Reynosa customs. The exercise consisted of a simulation of a collision, on the "Nuevo Amanecer" Reynosa-Pharr international bridge, between a tanker carrying 25,000 litres of hydrochloric acid (a toxic chemical) and a tractor-trailer, resulting in a leakage of material from the discharge valve of the tanker, which released a cloud of toxic vapour into the air.

Reynosa Customs officers were actively involved in addressing the emergency by following the procedures laid down in the relevant manual on immediate response in emergency situations and evacuating staff from the administrative areas; they activated the rapid response group composed of Reynosa customs officers; were the first to respond to the accident dressed in level "A" protective equipment and coordinated with and handed over management of the incident to the special units for dealing with and bringing that situation under control.

6. Course on border security first response training, Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. The General Customs Administration conducted that course in July 2006. Twenty-seven frontline customs officers participated in the training, which was jointly conducted by officials from the United States Customs and Border Protection Bureau and Department of Transportation. Officials from the 15 customs

offices cleared for border release screening of radioactive and nuclear goods, and substantive officers from central offices. That course focused on how to address and respond to emergency situations involving radioactive and/or nuclear materials by developing and implementing standard operational procedures designed for application in emergency situations involving such materials.

7. Binational simulation of a major emergency involving radioactive materials ("dirty bomb"), Puente Internacional Solidaridad-Colombia, 22 July 2006. The goal was to test the response capacity of the country's customs incidence units when faced with an emergency situation.

8. International border security training programme: "Interdict/RADACAD Radiation Academy", Richland, Washington, United States of America, from 31 July to 4 August 2006. The goal of this programme was to educate and train participants in disarmament and non-proliferation. Twenty-four frontline officers from customs offices and headquarters participated in the course.

9. Warnings. In June 2006, the General Customs Administration set off in the comprehensive automated customs system nationwide e-alerts on over 70 customs tariff items relating to hazardous materials (toxic chemicals and explosives), to warn and train its staff in the handling, verification, inspection, collection of samples, handling and storage of these types of materials. The system has inbuilt preventive measures, emergency response procedures, provisions for first aid, recommendations with respect to equipment, segregation and compatibility of materials, and procedures for dealing with spills or leaks of hazardous materials.

10. Biological simulation, October 2006. The General Customs Administration, in coordination with the Ministry of Health, participated in a national exercise involving the simulation of the entry into Mexico via Mexico City international airport of people infected with avian flu. The exercise was used to test the country's capacity to respond to such contingencies and to test the capacity of frontline Mexican Customs officers as well. The General Customs Administration uses this type of exercise and training in infectious biological agents to strengthen or improve its systems of intelligence exchange and inter-agency coordination with respect to all ports of entry and shipment of goods and to international passengers.

In preparation for that exercise, the Mexico-United States Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Exotic Animal Diseases in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) trained Mexican customs officers in personal care, protection and care as well as in the detection of symptoms in animals, mainly birds, during their transport, storage, custody, handling and clearance.

11. Course on international targeting and risk management. Twenty officers from the main maritime customs offices and substantive central departments participated in the International Targeting and Risk Management course held at the Manzanillo customs office from 26 February to 2 March 2007 with the support of the Customs and Border Protection Bureau of the United States of America.

12. Marine training programme. In the first quarter of 2007, 20 officers from the main maritime customs offices and other substantive central departments participated, with the assistance of the Customs and Border Service Agency of Canada, in the Marine Training Programme from 26 March to 27 April in Halifax,

Canada. The officers participating in that training programme will be certified in maritime and port security.

> **Recommendation number 23 of the study**: Educators should consider a full range of pedagogical methods for inclusion in any educational material. In addition to computer-based learning, model United Nations programmes, other role-playing and simulation games, videos, film, dance, song, theatre, puppetry, poetry, photography, origami, visual art and creative writing, to name a few, are all useful methods. Special emphasis should be given to participatory learning approaches that can be applied to a wide variety of disarmament and non-proliferation problems and audiences.

Publicity on the topic by Government officials

Mexico has promoted the participation of Government officials responsible for the topic in academic activities and forums to raise awareness on disarmament and non-proliferation.

Promotion of the early establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Disarmament: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

Since 2005, the Centre for International Relations of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), has been advocating the establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Disarmament: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. This project, prepared by Edmundo Hernández-Vela S., has been firmly supported by the head of the Faculty and is being managed by the Rector of the University.

The proposed establishment of a UNESCO Chair on Disarmament underlines the enormous importance and significance of this topic and puts special emphasis on higher education, specifically the training of internationalists. The subject is characterized by the close links between peace and development in all their aspects and modalities and it is structured around international policy, international law, Mexico's foreign policy, and economics and development, which are of vital importance to the education, preparation and training of internationalists, who are high-level professionals required by the country, consistent with its national priorities, to tackle the challenges of the arms race and threats to world peace.

The general long-term objectives of the Chair are to: (a) draw attention to the urgent need for greater awareness of the grave present and foreseeable danger of the arms race in all its forms, levels of intensity and manifestations, as well as its dire consequences, in particular the aggressive behaviour it encourages and the resulting proclivity to use force and violence; (b) promote the broadest possible awareness of the problem of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, and their vertical and horizontal proliferation, which continue to pose the main threat of the destruction of mankind and of all forms of life on Earth; (c) give wide publicity to the ominous and unacceptable situation that has resulted and continues to result from the diversion of precious economic resources and the massive loss of human lives, including of children, which should have been and still should be used to

promote human development, redress inequalities and injustice, and strengthen peace; (d) develop, by promoting greater, wider and deeper awareness, an enduring culture of peace and nuclear non-proliferation in every aspect of national life, and one that has a positive effect on international affairs; (e) develop a permanent framework for the study, analysis, reflection, discussion, proposal, elaboration and implementation of policies for action in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation and other related fields; (f) serve as a platform for the promotion and coordination of the efforts of concerned national and international institutions working in this field; and (g) contribute to and effectively assist in ensuring greater success for the activities and actions undertaken by UNESCO and other international governmental and non-governmental organizations in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

This proposal was born out of the need to revive and strengthen the already long-standing tradition, which is widely known and documented, of a Mexican foreign policy that supports disarmament and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and thus out of the need to strengthen Mexico's achievements and contributions in this critical area of international affairs, which will further promote its development in all areas of human activity, while at the same time building a more egalitarian and just world and thereby strengthening peace.

In anticipation of the early establishment of the Chair, the Centre for International Relations has taken advantage of the academic reforms which have been under way in the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences since 1997 and which are currently in the first phase of review to update these reforms to take account both of the evolving international situation and of the eminently qualitative need for the comprehensive training of internationalists as well as to introduce new subjects which, from the multi- and interdisciplinary perspective of international relations, address the delicate and complex questions related to international peace and security, and in particular disarmament and human development. In addition, components addressing these major areas and related issues feature prominently in the syllabuses of all relevant subjects.

A special effort has also been made to include subjects related to disarmament issues in the activities organized by the Centre for academic and professional groups in anticipation of the establishment of the UNESCO Chair on Disarmament.

This support by the Faculty of Political Sciences for the important initiative launched by the United Nations, with a prominent role being played by UNESCO, to promote education for disarmament throughout the world has been extended to other fields of study at both the degree and postgraduate levels and studies and research have been carried out on these major subjects both in courses and seminars and in the preparation of professional and academic papers, thereby resulting in a marked increase in final theses on the subject of disarmament and related issues and their valuable contribution to the development of this field of study and to the achievement of the best possible results.

The publication *Comunidad y cambio en los escenarios regionales: una visión prospectiva* was compiled by Maria de Lourdes Sierra Kobe and Alfredo Romero Castilla and edited by the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences of the Autonomous National University of Mexico (FCPyS-UNAM) in 2006. Presentations were also made of the books *Guerra y antiterrorismo. Afganistán, Irak y Chechenia*,

by Raúl Fajardo and *Las operaciones de mantenimiento de la paz de las Naciones Unidas: lecciones para México*, which were compiled by Cristina Rosas González.

The Centre for International Relations of UNAM also edits the review *Relaciones Internacionales*, which published an article by Doris Musalem Rahal, entitled *El conflicto palestino-israelí en el marco del unilateralismo estadounidense* in its May-August issue. It also publishes the *Diccionario de Política Internacional*, which regularly updates important terms in international relations, such as disarmament, nuclear weapons and the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance, among others.

Publicity events include the XXX International Spring Seminar, which took place in May 2005 and dealt with issues related to disarmament, nuclear weapons and conflicts like the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the one in Chechnya, among others.

In order to strengthen the UNESCO Chair on Disarmament and to support the team that has been formed to carry out this function under the direction of Edmundo Hernández-Vela S. and comprised of professors and researchers of different levels and teaching assistants, UNAM will shortly be proposing the launching of a programme to support innovation and improvement in teaching (PAPIME) devoted to peace, security and human development, which we hope will be accepted by the University and in which disarmament and non-proliferation will have a key role.

Lastly, the curriculum of the international relations programme was revamped in 2005 to strengthen its multi- and interdisciplinary profile by providing students with comprehensive training that would help them develop the skills, attitudes, aptitudes and knowledge to enable them to understand the global and national environment. The undergraduate degree in international relations is structured around fields of knowledge in which there are a total of 36 subjects whose syllabuses cover the topics of disarmament, non-proliferation, the arms race, regional conflicts and security. One subject is entitled "Disarmament" and others provide the foundation and background for the analysis of this subject.

Recommendation No. 33 of the study. Member States and the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament are urged to include in their submissions to the First Committee of the General Assembly information on the results of the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present study.

Mexico included in its statement in the First Committee at the sixty-first session of the United Nations General Assembly a reference to the subject of disarmament and non-proliferation education. Mexico also submitted information on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the United Nations study on education for disarmament and non-proliferation. It has also urged other States to do the same.

In addition, Mexico introduced at the sixty-first session of the General Assembly a draft resolution on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (resolution 61/73), which was adopted without a vote on 6 December 2006.